



Remember Me

"A National Catholic Outreach supporting the spiritual lives and rehabilitation of prisoners."

Leading with the Heart



Loretta Walters, Dismas Ministry
Board Member

(CJM) in her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri.

A deeply spiritual woman, Loretta credits the Maryknoll Sisters for her foundation in Catholic education and values. Her career goals and aspirations were launched while she studied criminal justice at St. Louis University.

Early in her career, Loretta pioneered a program that trained teachers how to work with teen parents. Teen pregnancy was an epidemic at that time and this specialized training helped both parents and teachers, not just the teens in crisis. Parents As Teachers was approved by the Missouri State Board of Early Education and adopted by other states. Loretta was one of the master trainers and traveled to deliver the training to educators across the country.

"This program helped me to understand the population I'm working with now," she added. Loretta serves as the Release to Rent Program Coordinator at CJM, where she has worked since 2017. Before that, Loretta ran a reentry program for eight years at Humanitri which later merged into CJM.

The Release to Rent program was initially designed to serve men released from prison as they acclimate back into society. It's a one-year reentry program that has since expanded and been customized to serve women and veterans, too.

As program coordinator, Loretta serves clients directly and assists in creating and updating program policies and procedures. She also oversees and runs meetings with other case managers to ensure that the program is running smoothly.

"Many of the guys have trust issues that developed at a young age. It's important to understand where they're coming from and meet them where they are. Trauma and mental illness work hand in hand. We start by better understanding brain development and what causes people to do the things they do," said Loretta, adding that a mental

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From a young age, Loretta Walters has understood the impact incarceration has on a family. Loretta's mom took care of Loretta and her four brothers while her dad lived out his prison sentence.

Mental illness plagued her father. She believes it's what led to his crime and eventual incarceration. It was Loretta's quest to learn more about the bigger picture of mental health and how it affects people and their loved ones.

"I understand how mental disease can cause someone to commit a crime," said Loretta, a case manager for Criminal Justice Ministry

Voices of Prisoners

"I am in prison and a recent convert to the Catholic religion. I would like to receive any materials you have on what it means to be Catholic, as well as the traditions and rituals of the Church. Basically, I need a Catholic starter kit. I am very eager to learn all I can about Catholicism. Thank you and God Bless."

~William, a prisoner

Voices of Donors

"Jesus himself gave us the Corporal Works of Mercy, a model for how we should treat our neighbors as if they were Christ in disguise. That's why we support Dismas Ministry: To channel God's Word of hope, repentance, and mercy to those who are often overlooked or ignored but equally, or more so, in need of His grace."

~Anonymous Donor

"I was in prison and you visited me" ~ Matthew 25:36



From the Director

Dear Friends,

It's June as I write this letter, and I think we can finally say summer is here! During these beautiful and balmy days, our calendars are filled with special occasions like weddings, family reunions or weekend getaways in addition to the everyday scramble to balance work and home life. No matter how you spend your days, I hope you are well and making enjoyable memories with those dear to you.

But many men and women detained in U.S. prisons are separated from loved ones and unable to enjoy the simple pleasures summertime offers. Cement walls and barbed wire are jolting barriers that convince many prisoners they need to turn their lives around through God's saving and healing grace. Prisoners reach out to us for materials that help them on their faith journey. Despite the obstacles, the Gospel messages miraculously make it into their hands – and hearts.

As we near the close of the Ministry's fiscal year, we are preparing to continue our work that begins in the new fiscal year starting July 1. But we must continue to look forward. The funds we raise in the current year enable our work in the following fiscal year.

Yes, I need to talk about philanthropy. Without your generous financial support, our mission would cease to exist.

It is through God's good grace, and people like you, that keep our mission going. Soon, we will begin our 24th year of serving men and women behind bars. The need continues for our Catholic faith, scripture and prayer resources. **We are truly grateful for your prayerful and financial support and hope you will continue to help us with a special gift today or in the near future.**

For many, the opportunity to build or renew their relationship with God and the Church gives them hope. This gift of hope paves the way for healing and a chance to make things right in God's eyes. It opens a pathway to redemption.

Thank you for helping those on the margins who seek God's love and mercy. The prisoners we serve are uplifted by your kindness and compassion.

God bless you and your loved ones.

Ms. Tyler Curtis
Executive Director



"Let it be done for you according to your faith." ~ Matthew 9:29

Thank you for supporting Dismas Ministry.
Please consider donating today at
dismasministry.org/donate

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health diagnosis from childhood or behind prison walls doesn't go away after their release from prison.

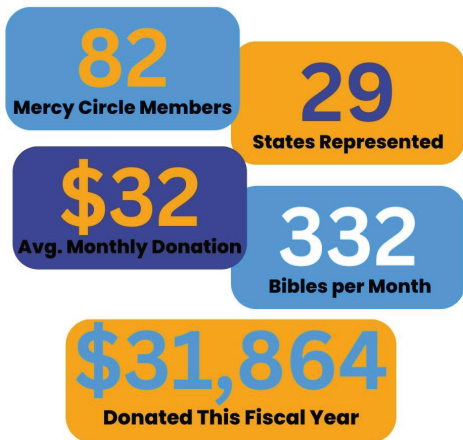
According to Loretta, agencies need to collaborate and work together and there are two major components to reentry success: a focus on spirituality and family support.

"We have a long way to go, and raising funds for these programs can be challenging," she added. "But a strong spiritual foundation and support from loved ones can be the difference in someone's successful transition to their next chapter."

Loretta Walters is a Dismas Ministry board member based in her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. She earned both an Associate's degree and Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from St. Louis University. Also, she is a Certified Mediator from the St. Louis University School of Law. Loretta is writing a book on case management and hopes her insights will help those embarking on this career path of serving and supporting others.

Mercy Circle Monthly Giving Program

Mercy Circle By The Numbers



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission. The Mercy Circle monthly contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of those we serve, providing them with hope, guidance, and a chance for spiritual growth. Through your generosity, we have the ability to provide over 332 Bibles to prisoners every month!

Your ongoing support enables us to continue our vital work of providing spiritual resources and educational materials to those incarcerated. Your consistent contributions demonstrate a deep understanding of the importance of rehabilitation and the knowledge that everyone is part of the Body of Christ and should not be forgotten.

Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most. With your partnership, we can continue to provide Catholic faith and prayer resources to those most in need behind bars.

If you are considering making a donation today, please consider becoming a member of our Mercy Circle Monthly Giving Program.

As a monthly donor, you are entitled to benefits, which include:

- Recognition in the *Remember Me* newsletter
- Greeting cards (5) featuring artwork of prisoners
- Special prayer card

Help us continue our mission today and tomorrow.

Please visit www.dismasministry.org/mercycircle

O Lord,
You are my guiding light,
my source of strength and
my refuge from life's storms.
I confess that I have often
strayed from Your divine path.
Have mercy on me, dear Lord,
and grant me Your forgiveness.
Teach me Your ways and guide
me along the straight path.
My heart longs to seek
Your face and forever dwell in
Your merciful presence.
Amen.

Join the Union of Prayer



Without the prayerful support of others, our spiritual outreach to prisoners will not be successful, for nothing is accomplished without prayer and our connection with God. For this reason we invite you to join our Union of Prayer. Joining this simple prayer association means that you agree to pray regularly for our ministry, the work that we do, and those we serve.

By joining the Dismas Ministry Union of Prayer, you are becoming an essential part of a community that seeks to provide comfort, support, and hope through the power of prayer. Your prayers will touch the lives of countless individuals, including inmates, their families, and all those affected by incarceration. Your commitment to intercede for those who often feel forgotten or marginalized is an act of love that will bring solace to the hearts of those in need.

Join today at www.dismasministry.org/union-of-prayer



We are grateful to these grant-making organizations, and others, who wish to remain anonymous.

- The Catholic Community Foundation - Milwaukee, WI
- Ray & Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust
- Greater Green Bay Community Foundation



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Voices of Prison Ministers

"Dismas Ministry has generously supported our diocese's ministry in our jails and prisons in the past, and I'm hoping you can help us out once again. Our chaplains and jail ministers have exhausted our supply of Bibles in Spanish. That's a good thing! But the downside is that our cupboards are empty. Dismas Ministry has been a tremendous help in our ministry. We would not be able to provide inmates with Bibles and other materials without Dismas Ministry's help. Thank you so much!"

~ Deacon Warren Hoy, Diocese of Monterey, California

Catholic Correspondence Study Courses

The mission of Dismas Ministry is to provide prisoners with the free Catholic scripture, faith and prayer resources they need to restore their relationship with the Catholic church and with God.

If an inmate would like to receive any of our materials, they must write to us directly to request a materials brochure.

www.dismasministry.org/request-resources

All four courses are available in English and Spanish.

Learn more at www.dismasministry.org/inmate-services

